MM 99-25

May 31, 1999

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
TW-A306
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W. Room 2C223
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Federal Communications Commissioners,

On behalf of the people of Eagle County, Colorado, I encourage you to adopt your Low Power FM (LPFM) proposal to create licenses for radio stations broadcasting at 1000 watts, 100 watts and 1-10 watts.

Our rural community currently has no local public radio station due, in part, to the prohibitive costs associated with licensing and equipping such a station under current FCC rules and regulations. A recent broadcast engineering study funded by a grassroots group of locals here found no available frequencies on the noncommercial portion of the FM spectrum, where a Denver-based statewide National Public Radio affiliate and a Christian network broadcaster based hundreds of miles away now dominate the airwaves. Experts estimate that obtaining a frequency in the commercial portion of the FM spectrum (by competing at auction against well-funded commercial broadcasters) could cost \$100,000 or more, a daunting price that is well beyond the means of our not-for-profit community group.

We've closely watched and cheered the triumph of our state's newest community radio station, KAFM, which recently began broadcasting in Grand Junction, 170 miles to the west. Yet the seven years of sweat equity and more than \$150,000 invested to win a license and bring the diminutive 16-watt station to the airwaves illustrates the high hurdles small communities like ours must overcome in order to develop even the most basic community radio service. Such barriers to entry into the radio marketplace unfairly favor commercial and noncommercial behemoths at the expense of smaller, local owners and consequently undermine the quality of radio broadcasts in our community.

That quality continues to decline in the wake of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Since the act's passage, five of the six commercial stations broadcasting in our county have come under the control of a single company, removing already scant local programming and replacing it with preprogrammed play lists, dj's and national talk show hosts piped in via satellite. Not only have community voices and ideas been eliminated here, they've been replaced with haughty diatribe (Rush Limbaugh, Dr. Laura and Don Imus, just to name a few) that more often than not fails to reflect the interests of our community.

We fully understand the concerns of current broadcasters to protect the integrity of the signals they've paid so much to monopolize. Yet we believe that advances in broadcast technology, including the proliferation of digital tuners in our homes and cars, can allow additional low power stations to coexist with larger broadcasters. We therefore suggest

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you allow new low-power stations to occupy the third- and even the second-adjacent channels beside existing signals.

As for the scope of the current FCC proposal, to ensure local programming, we suggest you require licenses be granted only to individuals who live in their proposed service area, and that each station owner be limited to a single broadcast license. Furthermore, we suggest that you allow unlicensed broadcasters who voluntarily stopped their broadcasts before low power licenses were available be allowed to apply for and obtain the new low power licenses.

Our only other quibble is with your recommendation to give priority to 1,000-watt stations over those using less broadcast power. While we would welcome the opportunity to apply and obtain a 1,000-watt low-power broadcast license, we also recognize that small community broadcasters in more populated areas around the nation would likely be squeezed out of the market (or would never be able to enter it) if 1,000-watt stations were given "primary service" broadcast rights. Thus we strongly suggest that your final proposal either eliminate this licensing preference, or remove the 1,000-watt category altogether. Furthermore, we suggest you give serious consideration to the creation of a 1-10-watt license category, which will likely go farther to promote the cause of diversity in broadcasting than any higherwattage licenses you may grant.

In support of the creation of low power licenses, I happily submit a petition with the names and addresses of 200 Eagle County, Colorado, residents who believe our community would be greatly enhanced by the establishment of a low-power community-owned and operated FM station. By approving the proposed low power FM licenses, you would help give our community the local voice it needs and deserves.

Thank you,

Alex Markels P.O. Box 985 Minturn, CO 81645 970-827-9503

deserves.		
Name	Address	Phone
	2875 Manns Lands PD Vail 81657	
2. NATE CHAMBERS	7.0.BOX 8554 BRELVENDEDE CO 8042	4 970-547-4101 "YEAH"
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3. Bobby Sluesna	n po Box 142 Edwards	748-8425
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6. JAMES Brenn	an 0054 Columbina	e Cr Eagle Vail
7. Larry Winste	n 1534 Sansome C	r Aurora, co
8. FREd WE	Atzell P.O. Box	101 Arma Codo 80420
9. ELLWOODBAR	RETT 689 CR12 A	ALMA, (0) 80420
10. Debbie King	ht 6249 Clarement	Chicago, 71.60659
11. Michele 2	Box 2053 Arm,	co 81620
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13. John Hol	Spart P.O. Box # 14	88 VAIL Co 81657

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4. Brad	Maraccini	Box 4730 Dillon G, 80435
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6. Barbara	Dibis	Germany 49-711-773-8965
7. Rodney	Copier ?	Germany 49-711-773-8965 78X33337 Vail 949-6758
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9. Janny	Caballero	12345 East Gue Dr. 32826
10.	TURNER	POBEX 18332 AVON CO 8/626
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3.	JACKIE CODE	an 1040 Vanc View# 2	25 4762836
4.	Sam Myhre	9201 Eighwood dr	LACOL NE
5. —	Laura Winn	41935.Bisray C	(33)693-6700
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7.	Dylan Salma	in 1405 A Molvern Ave.	Bothware MD (416) 525
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9	MICHAEL	JOHNSON 1410 STPAU	L DEWER CO. 802 (329-32)
10	Tara M. Cl	Lyng P.O. Box 3532 Bree	(505) >584) Lennidge, CO 80424 (974)-034.
11	Denise Gott	1018 P.O. BOX 191620	303)926-2423
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3.	Ross Palmer Po	Box 2234 Vail C	0 81658 827-9101
4.	Megan Bayler 1		Win (88/645 827-9590
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11.	Jeff Kenned	1 Box 442	MINTUR 81645
12.	Jane Smid	on Box 1077	MINTURN, CD. 81645

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1. Block	1736 Race	St. Denver	949-4100
2. Ruth Bloch		60306	
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7. Kather J. Ve	Line P.O. 613	34 Ann	970/949-1706
8. Debil Sefeda	aus Poßexa	2356 Avon	910-845-9807
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We strongly support adoption of the FCC's Low Power FM (LPFM) proposals to create licenses for radio stations broadcasting at 1000 watts, 100 watts and 10 watts. Our rural community currently has no local public radio station due, in part, to the prohibitive costs associated with licensing and equipping such a station under current FCC rules and regulations. Furthermore, in the wake of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, commercial and noncommercial stations from outside our community have monopolized the available FM frequencies and prevented us from gaining access to the local airwaves. This is a disservice to our community, which would be greatly enhanced by the establishment of a low-power community-owned and operated FM station. By approving the proposed Low Power FM licenses, you would help give our community the local voice it needs and deserves.

Nam	e Address	Phone
1.	Dave Kirko Box 2:	517, Edwards 81632 926-5303
2.M	claric McKinney P.O	Box 2402 Edwards 81632 926-2787
3.	RAIG HAUSCHILDT	-An BOX 2000 AN 81658 949-1203
4.5	fortme Lisko F	D. Box 25/7 Edublas (08/632
5. k	Cen + Victor William	UBLISON APT # 18 GUS UD. 900-908-0669
6.	Melly & Ken Wil	UBLISON APT # 18 GUS W. 410-408-000)
7.	Brian Malloy	Po. Box 1715 Edwards to 8/632
8.	pana M. Voljanie	P.O Box 4440 AVON-CO 81620
9.	Monack	PO Box 6943 Avon COC1620
10.	ERIC BORGER	250N PO BOY 4642 VAIL CO. 81658
11.	JOSH ONLING	103 W. 89 NYC KDRY
12.	DAND Clarks	2039 CHAMMENT #4 / Al
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Name	Address	Phone
1. Tail Yenr	redy- PO 1552 Avon	- 845-7646
2. Smore Q a	PHA HCR81 BOX161 B	OND 653-4383
3. Jan Mou	at P.O.BOX2393 Vai	
4. Kellymnarty	POBOX 2393 Vail	- 926-0216
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	PO 3376 Avon 811	J
	o P.O.Box 646 GYPSum	
8. Mark Rlickonst		1 Vail 81657 476-3043
9. Daniel Lee	Afolton P.O. Box 215	MINTERN 8/645
10. John Blanchard	POBOX 215/ ChechRFM 1257 Main HII / Mintur	n. la 8/645
11. Anna Men	2 1522	B1658 3905249
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1. BEN GILBERT	P.O BOX 2255 E	DWARDS LO. 81632 70	48 1374
2. APRIL PIERCE		DWARDS 0081632	
3. HARRIS CAKLOCIC	" 2255 '	(/	748-1374
4. Joh Stoart	P.O.Box 1399	Avon Co 81620	_
5. KM WZ ROBS	PRT3 po 19420	Avon co-81620	
6. CHRIS BROWN	Po BoxISIZ ES)UNAPOS, CO. 863	<u> </u>
7. Matt Sauce	√ 1.0.B0×463	7 vail, co 8/65	Z
		Edwards 6. 8/632	
9. Lisa Lucas	RaBoy 7192	Avon Q. 81690	
10. Joy Paul	P.O. MOX 535	5 Avon, CO 81620	949-0704
11. Susannah Do	w: 0 Po Box 4691	Aron, co \$1620	148-0960
12. CHANTRA BERGI	MANN P.C. Box	357 AVON 00 8/6:	ZO _845-8718

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